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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 872

By Person

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Senator Tom  
Leatherwood for his meritorious service to the  
people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it was with great consternation and disbelief that we learned of Senator Tom Leatherwood's intention to quit this Body at the conclusion of the One Hundred First General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Tom Leatherwood is truly an exemplary public servant and valued colleague, and it is with sadness and regret that we face his imminent departure from the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Senator Leatherwood has served the good people of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District, with greatest wisdom, acumen and dedication during his two terms and eight years in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, an honorable man who acts with integrity, Tom Leatherwood has taken his oath of office and elected duties very seriously; and

WHEREAS, he is the very epitome of the compassionate and dedicated legislator: he answers all of his mail and he always has time for anyone who asks; and

WHEREAS, Senator Leatherwood serves with distinction as Vice Chair of the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee; he is also a valuable member of

the Senate Government Operations Committee and serves astutely as Assistant Leader for the Senate Republican Caucus; and

WHEREAS, Tom Leatherwood began his illustrious political career while riding in his baby buggy, as his mother distributed brochures for various Republican candidates, and he learned about loyalty from his best childhood friend, a boxer dog named Champ; and

WHEREAS, the first political office he held was Sheriff, or rather "Sheriff for a Day", a reward he received for winning an essay contest in high school; and

WHEREAS, he later refined his estimable leadership abilities by serving as President of Phi Kappa Phi fraternity during his college days; and

WHEREAS, he is presently a candidate for the office of Shelby County Assessor of Property in the August 2000 county general election; and

WHEREAS, although his nickname, "Senator Latewood" might imply otherwise, he has the cleanest and most organized desk on all of the third floor of the War Memorial Building, and all of his desk accessories are aligned perfectly perpendicular to each other; and

WHEREAS, Senator Leatherwood is perhaps the only legislator who can attend three receptions in one night without eating at any of them, and then return to his office to snack on a Little Debby Nutty Bar that has been thoughtfully provided by his office mate's mother; and

WHEREAS, a true gourmand, he lives on a steady diet of Mexican food and vending machine selections while in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Senator Leatherwood is a gentleman of deliberate thought and even temperament; it has been said that he only moves swiftly when he is driving on the highway; and

WHEREAS, evidencing great empathy and concern for his fellow human beings, he sends out original gifts for wedding presents and exhibits his thoughtfulness by ensuring that his secretaries are never bored; and

WHEREAS, perhaps Tom Leatherwood's most treasured distinction is that he is the Shelby County legislator who is mentioned **least** in *The Commercial Appeal*; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Shelby County, Senator Leatherwood presently resides in Lakeland with his family; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Memphis, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology; he earned his teaching certificate from Middle Tennessee State University and taught in the Shelby County School System for eight years; and

WHEREAS, Tom Leatherwood has enjoyed a wide variety of careers, including working as a ski resort van driver; pizza delivery man; chemistry teacher; and as a field crew manager for a U.S. oil exploration team; and

WHEREAS, after several years in the oil exploration industry, he fulfilled a lifelong dream of world travel by spending 14 months backpacking through a total of 26 countries; and

WHEREAS, after his trip, Senator Leatherwood returned to the United States with a greater realization of and appreciation for the many freedoms and blessings we enjoy in our nation; and

WHEREAS, presently an insurance and investments agent by profession, Tom Leatherwood serves his clients with the same probity and proficiency with which he has served his constituents; and

WHEREAS, his career and many accomplishments aside, he remains most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife, the former Melissa Leigh Mills; and their three daughters, Celia Mae, Hannah Grace and Amanda Leigh; and

WHEREAS, the Leatherwoods are eagerly anticipating the birth of a fourth child very soon; fortuitously, the baby is due on August 4, 2000, which is one day after the election; and

WHEREAS, Senator Leatherwood and his family are faithful members of Bellevue Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, for eight years, Tom Leatherwood has served his constituents and all Tennesseans with honor, resilience, and skill; and

WHEREAS, Senator Tom Leatherwood has rendered sagacious and loyal service to the state of Tennessee during his estimable tenure in the General Assembly, and it is with deep regret and sadness that we, his colleagues, bid him a fond farewell; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend our most trusted and valued colleague, Senator Tom Leatherwood, for his meritorious public service as a member of this General Assembly and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.